

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, Claims 7, 8, 16, 17, and 22-27 are pending. Applicant has canceled Claims 1-6, 9-15, and 18-21 without prejudice or disclaimer; amended Claims 7, 8, 16, and 17 to rewrite them in independent form incorporating the features of Claims 1 or 10; and added Claims 22-27 to better represent the claimed invention. Thus, no new matter has been added.

The outstanding Office Action objects to the title of the invention as not descriptive; objects to the Abstract of the Disclosure because it uses legal phraseology, it fails to set forth a concise statement of what Applicant considers to be Applicant's contribution to the art, and it fails to mention the fact that a method also formed a part of Applicant's contribution to the art; rejects Claims 1-6, 9-15, and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Hube, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,229,814, herein "Hube"); and objects to Claims 7, 8, 16, and 17 as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that Claims 7, 8, 16, and 17 will be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

In regard to the objection to the title of the invention, Applicant has amended the title of the invention to be more clearly indicative of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

In regard to the objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure, Applicant has amended the Abstract, as the Office Action has suggested. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-6, 9-15, and 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), Applicant has canceled these claims, rendering the rejection moot.

In response to the objection to Claims 7, 8, 16, and 17 as dependent upon rejected base claims, Applicant has rewritten Claims 7, 8, 16, and 17 in independent form including all of the limitations of their base claims and any intervening claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to Claims 7, 8, 16, and 17 be withdrawn. New Claims 22-27, although of different statutory class or of different scope, include recitations similar to all of those in Claims 7, 8, 16, or 17. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that Claims 7, 8, 16, 17, and 22-27 be allowed.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every one of Claims 7, 8, 16, 17, and 22-27 defines patentable subject matter, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



---

Gregory J. Maier  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220

Surinder Sachar  
Registration No. 40,073